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ABSTRACT

The discipline policy of the Folsom-Cordova Unified School District (California) is delineated in this pamphlet. The policy begins with a seven-point belief statement from the Board of Education which defines discipline and outlines the Board's expectations regarding the carrying out of this policy. Responsibilities are then listed for students, parents/guardians, teachers, principals, and the community. Definitions are presented for prohibited behaviors related to assault, defiance, weapons, drugs/alcohol, vandalism, theft, smoking, and profanity. Five possible disciplinary actions for violations are listed along with three offenses which require mandatory suspension. The policy concludes with five alternatives to disciplinary action which can be used to resolve behavior problems. This document was selected by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Task Force on Public Confidence as descriptive of a promising practice or exemplary project worthy of highlighting for the California educational community. (DC)

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DISCIPLINE

We expect the cooperation and commitment of every student, staff member, and parent to achieve these standards of personal conduct and discipline in the Folsom-Cordova Unified School District Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

S. Don Sato *Craig Burnett*

Richard Will *David Marty*

Joel Moskowitz

James Loughridge, Superintendent

Folsom-Cordova Unified School District

FOLSOM-CORDOVA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
1091 Coloma Street
Folsom, California 95630

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DISTRICT DISCIPLINE POLICY

The Board of Education has adopted the following policy regarding discipline on school campuses, at off-campus school related activities, and on school buses.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE FOLSOM CORDOVA SCHOOL DISTRICT:

1. Believes the purpose of all students attending school is to participate actively in educational programs in order to acquire an education consistent with their personal goals and goals of society.

2. Defines discipline as behavior which permits students, staff, and guests to perform effectively in a school setting.

3. Expects high standards of discipline and moral conduct on the part of students and staff.

4. Assigns to district staff — teachers, principals, administrators, other district personnel — the responsibility of assuring this policy and its rules are carried out consistently, fairly, and promptly with due regard for the rights of individuals.

5. Intends to enforce this policy within existing, city, state, and federal laws.

6. Supports school administration and staff in carrying out this policy.

7. Communicates to the public, District Policy and rules and regulations regarding discipline.

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

The following responsibilities are assigned by the Board of Education to carry out this discipline policy and to establish standards of behavior.

THE STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

1. Respecting the authority of teachers, principals, and other staff to enforce District policy and school rules and regulations regarding student discipline and moral conduct.

2. Behaving in classrooms, on school campuses, and on school buses in a manner that does not disrupt or interfere with the rights of other students, staff and guests.

3. Abiding by the standards of conduct and rules and regulations governing discipline established by the school.

4. Attending assigned classes daily on time and for each full term.

THE PARENT/GUARDIAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

1. Accepting and respecting the right of the Board of Education to require discipline standards of behavior for all students and for all non-students while on campus during school activities.

2. Reviewing District discipline policy and school discipline rules and regulations with family members to insure all are familiar with and understand the standards of conduct expected by school authorities on school campuses.

3. Cooperating with school officials in carrying out appropriate discipline penalties when such action is necessary.

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4. Requesting assistance from appropriate community agencies in correcting misbehavior of students when necessary.

THE TEACHER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

1. Reviewing policy and school rules and regulations regarding discipline with classroom students at the start of every semester and whenever necessary.

2. Consistently and fairly enforcing District policy and school rules and regulations regarding discipline.

3. Establishing an atmosphere of proper behavior in classrooms and setting guidelines which will give every student full opportunity to pursue his/her studies without disruption.

4. Communicating with students and parents regarding behavior problems and proposed solutions.

5. Promptly reporting any continuing student behavior problems to appropriate personnel.

THE PRINCIPAL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

1. Establishing school rules and regulations in conformance with District discipline policy that will ensure an educational program free from disruption for all students.

2. Communicating established District policy and school rules and regulations regarding discipline to parents, staff and students.

3. Consistently and fairly enforcing District policy and school rules and regulations regarding discipline.

4. Assisting students, parents and staff in early identification of behavior problems and in seeking solutions or remedies for causes of misconduct.

THE COMMUNITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

1. Acknowledging the right of the Board of Education, its administration and school site personnel to carry out District discipline policy and school rules and regulations established in the interests of maintaining the best educational environment in all classrooms and on all campuses of the District schools.

2. Cooperating with the Board of Education, its administration and school site personnel in providing alternative educational programs and appropriate remedial services or programs to eliminate student misconduct.

Please make particular note of the Prohibited Behaviors and consequent Disciplinary Actions which follow.

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PROHIBITED BEHAVIORS

The Board of Education authorizes suspension, program change or other appropriate disciplinary action for any student upon the first incident of any of the following:

a. ASSAULT — Causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical injury to another person.

b. DEFIANCE — Disrupting school activities or defying valid authority.

c. WEAPONS — Possessing, selling or otherwise furnishing any firearms, knife, explosive or other dangerous object.

d. DRUGS/ALCOHOL — Using, possessing, providing or selling any controlled substances or look-alike. (District Policy 5132.)

e. VANDALISM — Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or private property.

f. THEFT — Stealing or attempting to steal school property or private property.

g. SMOKING — Use of tobacco, except in designated areas established by the school.

h. PROFANITY — Engaging in habitual profanity or vulgarity, or committing an obscene act.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Violation of the Board of Education adopted policy regarding discipline or established school rules and regulations may result in disciplinary action including one or more of the following:

a. Removal from classroom

b. Suspension

c. Expulsion

d. Filing civil action

e. Referral for criminal prosecution

MANDATORY SUSPENSION

After a determination of facts, and without other disciplinary action being required, the following student behavior will result in suspension action and recommendation of expulsion for a first offense:

a. Causing physical injury to another person.

b. Possessing, selling or otherwise furnishing any firearms, knife, explosive or other dangerous object.

c. Unlawfully possessing, using, selling or otherwise furnishing, or being under the influence of any controlled substance; or material in lieu of a controlled substance.

Ordinarily, reinstatement in school can occur only after a conference or contact with parents and the student and resolution of the student's behavior problems.

Disciplinary action alone will not solve a student's behavior problems. School District personnel will counsel with disciplined students to resolve behavior problems using alternatives including the following:

a. Individual instruction/tutoring

b. Counseling programs

c. Parent conferences

d. Referral to appropriate community agencies.

e. Reassignment to another program and/or school.

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